

PART II. Operating Divisions

ARBORETUM

The most visible accomplishments in the development of the Arboretum grounds during the two-year period covered by this report are in the Entranceway and Forecourt areas. The two pools mentioned in the 1959-1961 Report have now been completed. They are the Gateway Pool, located at the western end of the parking lots and the Bauer Pool, located midway between the Gateway Pool and the western terminus of the proposed Entranceway Development. Both pools are faced with travertine marble. During 1963 the Bauer Pool was further enhanced by the installation of a 15 foot wide travertine walkway encircling it. The two pools have been temporarily connected by decomposed granite pathways in lieu of the final marble walkways. A lawn area was planted and is now established between the pathways as has the area between the Gateway Pool and Baldwin Avenue. Plantings of Pinus pinea, the Italian stone pine, and Podocarpus macrophylla have been made in the areas north and south of the grass panel. The pines were donated by Mr. Archiblad Young and the Podocarpus were donated by the Diggers Garden Club of Pasadena.

The area immediately north of the Bauer Pool was cleared of the annual and perennial plants, and it will be included in the general forecourt development.

The newest and most visible constructions are the two 15 foot high by 60 foot long travertine faced walls flanking the Gateway Pool to the north and south. A considerable planting of small trees has been completed in the area surrounding the pools, but the need for a few large specimen trees is quite evident. A total of about 50 trees and shrubs are already installed with more to follow.

In the Gateway Entrance, a new tram loading area was constructed consisting of a metal frame covered with saran. A lawn was established and three large flowering trees were moved from other parts of the grounds. Also, in the Entranceway a new "Bromeliad Display Tree" was made in the center of the ramp area leading from the Gatehouse to the Library. Flowering trees were planted to enhance the parking lot.

Nursery: A regular program of growing plants for use on the Arboretum grounds has been continued in a satisfactory manner. In addition, propagating stock of several new plants was made available to nurseries during this period in furtherance of our program of introducing new species to the general nursery trade. A continuing program of testing new plant species from all over the world for use as street trees, park and public grounds plants as well as for use in home yards was continued. In addition to our regular growing program, displays for the education and benefit of the public have been maintained in the Gatehouse area, Rotunda area, and throughout the Home Demonstration Gardens. This has become an increasingly active program and is most favorably received by the public. Responsibility for this display program rests entirely on the propagation section so far as growing and arranging plants for the display is concerned.

The Begonia Greenhouse has been renovated and rearranged with a considerable addition of new plants to the collection. A species begonia collection is maintained as a reserve of genetic material for breeding purposes.

Home Demonstration Gardens Area: Major changes in these gardens are reflected in the construction of a new greenhouse-lathhouse in the hobby garden area. This new and different structure was designed and installed by Aluminex, Inc., and consists basically of an aluminum frame with plastic for the top and north side and glass on the south side. Included in the structure are heaters, coolers, and adjustable metal benches.

A new walk installed between the lower patio in the entertainer's garden and the barbecue area improved the Gardens and at the same time has increased the visitor's safety. During the year, Monrovia Nursery, Deigaard Nursery, and Mordigan Evergreen Nursery have installed displays in the Plant Collector's Garden, and during the latter part of the summer the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society presented an outstanding display of cactus and succulents in this area.

The plant introduction and testing program continues at approximately the same pace. Selections have been made from the Crape Myrtles (Lagerstroemia indica) mentioned in the 1959-1961 Report and seedlings grown from additional selected plants

have been replanted.

An extensive renovation of the soil in the display garden area has resulted in greatly improved growth of plantings. The 1962-63 season was the finest ever experienced.

On Tallac Knoll, through the aid of juvenile labor crews, the paths in the tropical garden on top of the Knoll were relocated to provide for additional plantings. Also, bromeliads were established in the branches of the oak trees in the Biblical Garden. The pinetum has been further improved by the removal of old eucalyptus trees. A generous gift of 20 varieties of juniper from Monrovia Nursery enabled the establishment of a demonstration planting on the north side of the Knoll, immediately adjacent to the pinetum plantings. The South American Section has been relocated on the southeast slope of Tallac Knoll. Stabilized decomposed granite paths have been installed and a start has been made in planting this new area.

During 1961-63 tensiometers were installed in various areas throughout the grounds in a study aimed at revision of the watering program so that adequate moisture could be maintained with a minimum use of water. To date they have proved valuable and a considerable water savings has resulted.



Dr. Gonderman, Plant Physiologist,
demonstrating the degree of fire resistance of Cistus.

South African Section: The planting of large areas with Dimorphotheca aurantiaca was begun two years ago and has been a source of interest to our visitors each spring. It has furnished an outstanding display for a month to six weeks.

Herb and Knot Gardens: The Knot Garden Section has been completely re-designed and replanted. This was a rather extensive project and its completion is, in great part, due to a contribution of \$1,200 from the Southern California Unit of the Herb Society of America. A vote is given this organization for its continued interest and support, not only through cash donations, but through the participation of its members in propagating and growing plants for the garden.

Lagoon Areas: The upper lagoon has been maintained in its natural state for use by the Educational Division in nature courses. The most notable addition to our lagoons has been a pair of black swans which have yearly produced a clutch of cygnets. However, for the first time their progeny are maturing and will be a valuable addition to the lagoon. Nesting areas have been provided for wild ducks and efforts are being made to encourage other migratory water birds to nest here.

Arboriculture Section: Participation in tree seminars and conferences has helped to bring all phases of Arboretum tree knowledge to varied groups as well as to the general public.

During 1961-63 there were approximately 1,800 telephone calls regarding information on tree care, turf maintenance, and control of various garden insects and diseases.

The workload of this section is cumulative and increases as the trees mature. The 1961-63 workload of the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and Lux is as follows:

Trimmed approximately 1,823 trees and topped 381 trees for the health and welfare of the trees and for protection of visitors; removed 442 dead and dangerous trees from the grounds; chipped 1,274 loads of brush to prepare compost and avoid hauling it to the dump; inspected 1,935 trees for pests and diseases; sprayed 16,048 trees for control of injurious pests and diseases. For the first time in the history of the Arboretum we deep fed 1,900 large trees using an hydraulic method. Total gallonage of water used in spraying and irrigating was 240,540 gallons. Hauled 214 loads of logs and stumps to the dump and corded 40 cords of firewood which were sold at auction by the County. Also, we planted 226, staked 122, and watered 856 trees.

Assistance was rendered in setting up flower shows and also in the initial plantings at South Coast Botanic Garden. New equipment obtained during the last two years consisted of a truck with a 30 foot aerial boom and a larger chipper. This equipment greatly assisted in modernizing tree maintenance techniques and has extended the area that can now be serviced.

Palmdale Unit: Considerable frost damage at the Palmdale Unit during 1962-63 has resulted in some losses, but the addition of a new area with improved watering facilities will enable installation of additional plantings that should provide results by the next reporting period.

Lux Arboretum: Routine maintenance has been continued and a new water distribution box has been installed to improve the supply of locally obtained water.



Stewart, William S. 1961. "Arboretum." *Biennial report* 1961-63, 2-4.

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